



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release DECEMBER 26, 1958

STUDY BEGUN ON OYSTERS AND OYSTER FLUID

A joint study of the United States Food and Drug Administration, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the oyster industry to obtain basic and practical data on the biological, chemical and physical characteristics of the oyster has been initiated, according to Assistant Secretary of the Interior Ross Leffler. The research will be conducted on the handling and processing of fresh, shucked oysters.

The data can be used as the basis for improving packing and marketing practices and for the evaluation of present Food and Drug Administration standards of identity. The necessity for such a study became evident as the result of court cases concerning the amount of solids in a given unit of oysters.

Each of the government agencies and the oyster industry is supplying a technical employee to participate in the research under the direction of Dr. Benjamin Millier of Johns Hopkins University, selected as a disinterested scientist. Work has begun at the Virginia Fisheries Laboratory, Gloucester Point, Virginia. The Laboratory is located on the western shore of Chesapeake Bay near a typical oyster plant. This centralized location will facilitate the plans for the research group to study oysters from all the major producing areas. The 3-man team will have an excellent opportunity for active plant study on the effect of processing variables on the composition and characteristics of packed oysters at the nearby commercial oyster plants.

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries
and Wildlife, Washington, D.C.

DATE: August 1, 1958

Regional Director, Bureau of Sport
Fisheries and Wildlife, Juneau

SUBJECT: Musk ox survey - Nunivak Island

One copy of Refuge Supervisor Spencer's report of the 1958 survey
is attached. The crop of 12 calves is very encouraging. A transplant to the
proposed Arctic wildlife range at this time would appear to be a strategic
for public support.

We are following through with the Area Director on the matter of
transplanting musk oxen. It would lend support to efforts if your office can see fit
to request action through the office of Commissioner of Indian Affairs.
A copy of our letter to the Area Director is attached.

Clarence J. Rhode

A-100-18

Regional Director, BSRM, Juneau, Alaska

July 23, 1958

Range Supervisor, BSRM, Kodiak, Alaska

Reindeer Survey - Nunivak Island

During the period July 17-19, we made a survey of Nunivak Island in Cessna 742 piloted by Game Management Agent Trenchley. Agent Sommer and I acted as observers. We were fortunate in having excellent visibility over two days and succeeded in getting a thorough survey.

Muskox observed are located on the attached map. These were classified in numbers as follows:

Adult bulls	44
Calves	38
Cows & sub-adults	105
Total:	187

Loss previous winter	1
	188

The 1957 survey resulted in a minimum population of 143, a maximum possible population of 160, and a probable population of 150-152. This year, 150 adults and sub-adults were noted, hence there is no indication of significant loss. We did not observe any dead animals, although one was reported to us in the vicinity of Nash Harbor. Due to the schedule of other work, we did not locate and examine the dead animal or undertake any ground observations.

The entire reindeer population was loosely grouped in an area extending from Nash Harbor 6-8 miles westward. We did not attempt an accurate count, although there appeared to be about 8-10,000 head. This herd has shown a consistent increase for ten years, with recent accelerated growth. I doubt that present harvest facilities will be able to stabilize this herd at its present population level. To do so will probably require the immediate consideration of (a) increased female harvest, (b) expanded butchering and holding facilities to handle up to 2,500 head.

I mention the above since we may be approaching an unknown in the competition of a high reindeer population and the muskox herd. During the high populations of the early 1940s the opportunity was not at that time to appraise this factor.

David L. Spenser

August 1, 1958

Jim Hawkins
Area Director
Alaska Native Service
Goldstein Building
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Jim:

Refuge Supervisor David L. Spencer completed a thorough coverage of the Nunivak Island Musk ox herd and gives an encouraging report of 181 animals of which 32 were calves.

The following is quoted from his report: "The entire reindeer population was loosely grouped in an area extending from Nash Harbor 6-8 miles westward. We did not attempt an accurate count, although there appeared to be about 8-10,000 deer. This herd has shown a consistent increase for ten years, with recent accelerated growth. I doubt that present harvest facilities will be able to stabilize this herd at its present population level. To do so will probably require the immediate consideration of (a) increased female harvest, (b) expanded butchering and holding facilities to handle up to 2,500 head.

I mention the above since we may be approaching an unknown in the competition of a high reindeer population and the musk ox herd. During the high populations of the early 1940s' the opportunity was not at hand to appraise this factor."

The purpose of this letter is to make a formal request for Alaska Native Service action to keep the Nunivak reindeer herd within the carrying capacity of the range. The record will show that once before the reindeer were permitted to get "out of bounds" with terrific losses to both reindeer and facilities for handling and butchering are inadequate to increase the herd. As other method of herd control should be undertaken. When your staff have had a chance to appraise the situation we would be pleased to discuss the matter.

Very truly yours,

Clarence J. Rhode